

IN THE CLAIMS

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A method for isochronously transmitting data on a predetermined bus line which supports asynchronous transmission of control data between devices linked thereto, the data including audio channel data representing sounds reproducible on a plurality of audio channels, comprising:

arranging the audio channel data for each of the plurality of audio channels in a plurality of first data units, each first data unit having a predetermined data length;

setting up a second data unit having the predetermined data length, the second data unit including a label section, a data transmission section having a plurality of variable length data portions related to respective ones of the plurality of audio channels, and a sub-label section indicating a spatial placement of the data within the data transmission section of the second data unit; and

transmitting the plurality of first data units and the second data unit between devices linked to the predetermined bus line.

12. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plurality of first data units are assembled with the second data unit in a packet and the step of transmitting includes transmitting the packet between the devices linked to the predetermined bus line.

13. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the data in the plurality of variable length portions relates to the positioning of speakers for the plurality of audio channels.

14. (new) A data transmission apparatus, comprising:

means for arranging audio channel data for each of a plurality of audio channels in a plurality of first data units, each first data unit having a predetermined data length, and for setting up a second data unit having the predetermined data

length, the second data unit including a label section, a data transmission section having a plurality of variable length data portions related to respective ones of the plurality of audio channels, and a sub-label section indicating a spatial placement of the data within the data transmission section of the second data unit; and

means for isochronously transmitting the plurality of first data units and the second data unit on the predetermined bus line for reception by a data receiving apparatus linked to the predetermined bus line.

15. (new) The data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said isochronously transmitting includes assembling the plurality of first data units with the second data unit in a packet and transmitting the packet between the devices linked to the predetermined bus line.

16. (new) The data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the data in the plurality of variable length portions relates to the positioning of speakers for the plurality of audio channels.